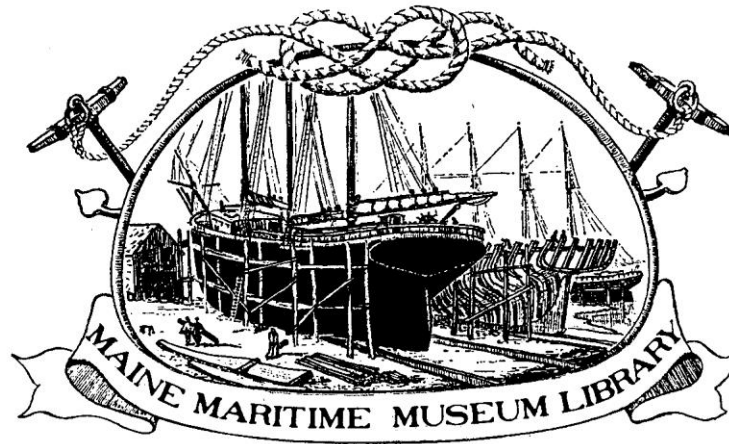


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**Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection  
MS - 16**

**Captain John F. Harden and Sarah J. (Pillsbury) Harden Papers**  
**1849-1871**

by  
Elisabeth Meier  
February 2018

½ box  
.25 linear feet  
*Accession no. 70.45.1-2*

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## Abstract

**John F. Harden, Captain (1829-1877)**

**Sarah J. (Pillsbury) Harden (1831-1909)**

**Papers, 1849-1871**

½ box

Master mariner from Rockland, Maine

This collection contains business and personal papers of Captain John F. Harden (1829-1877) of Rockland, Maine. Business papers include letters, wage receipts, customs certificates and charter agreements related to Harden's command of the Bath-owned brig *Long Reach* between 1869 and 1871, when the vessel was sailing in the southern lumber and West Indies trades. The personal papers consist of letters from Captain Harden's wife, Sarah J. (Pillsbury) Harden (1831-1909), beginning during the couple's courtship in 1849.

Gift of the Davenport Fund.

MS-12. Accession #70.45.1-2.

Finding aid (folder level control) and related material in repository.

### **Added entries—persons:**

Drake, James Brainerd (1838-1906)

Harden, John F., Captain (1829-1877)

Harden, Sarah J. Pillsbury (1831-1909)

Hayden, John

Lemont, Alfred

### **Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):**

C. H. Mallory & Co.

John S. Ingraham & Co.

*Long Reach* (Brig)

### **Added entries—key terms:**

Coasters (Ships)

Coastwise shipping

Crew lists

Lumber trade

Merchant mariners – Salaries, etc.

Rockland (Me.)

Ship captains

Ship captains' spouses

West Indies trade

## Acquisition

This collection was donated to the museum by the Davenport Fund in 1970, part of a larger gift of unrelated material.

## **Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on this collection.

## **Physical Condition**

The documents are in reasonably good condition. Some have stamps affixed to them with adhesive that is now fragile. The ink is beginning to fade on many of the letters.

## **Related Materials**

SM 178/13 contains a business letter addressed to Captain John F. Harden as captain of the *Adelaide* (schooner) in 1857. SM 36/2 covers Harden's service in the Civil War as acting master of the *USS Antona* (steamer). That collection includes a letter copy book, Harden's commission, and a certificate transferring his pension to his widow, Sarah. More material can be found in the John F. Harden collection at Mystic Seaport (Coll. 111), which is available digitally.

## **Historical Note**

Captain John F. Harden (1829-1877) was a native of East Thomaston, Maine. He went to sea as a teenager, apparently starting in the local coasting trade. As his career progressed, he moved into longer-distance routes, sailing from New York to the southern states, the West Indies, South America, and Europe. Captain Harden's commands included the *Adelaide* (schooner), *Iddo Kimball* (bark), the Bath-built and -owned *Long Reach* (bark), the *Galatea* (ship), and several other schooners.

During the Civil War, Harden joined the US Navy and received an acting commission as master. He commanded the *USS Antona* (steamer) on blockade duty in the Gulf of Mexico. After the war, he enlisted again as an acting lieutenant the sloop of war *Oneida* on a voyage to join the Asiatic Squadron in China. Harden remained in the Navy until 1869.

John F. Harden married Sarah J. Pillsbury (1831-1909), also of East Thomaston, in 1851. The couple had three children: Charles F. (1854-1877), Albert R. (1857-1859), and Edward A. (1866-1917). Sarah spent most of her married life ashore in Rockland. She continued to live there, supported by a Civil War pension, after Captain Harden's death in 1877.

## **Scope and Content Note**

This collection has two distinct parts: business papers related to Captain John Harden's command of the *Long Reach* (brig) from 1869 to 1871, and letters written by Sarah J. Harden to her husband.

The papers related to the *Long Reach* present a well-rounded picture of the brig's operations over the three years of John Harden's command. Customs clearances, charter agreements, and accounts outline the vessel's business in the American south and the Caribbean, while receipts for wages paid provide a picture of the crews. The collection also includes letters and instructions to Harden from brokers in New York and from the brig's owners, represented by Alfred Lemont and John Hayden, in Bath. A group of letters from James B. Drake, who helped Harden get command of the *Long Reach*, illustrates some of the patronage involved in the shipping business.

The letters from Sarah J. Harden to Captain Harden are primarily personal, dealing only tangentially with Harden's career. However, in describing her family, town life, finances, the

problem of finding a place to live, and the movements of friends, particularly those who went to sea, Sarah's letters give a broader image of the maritime community of Rockland.

### Box and Folder List

Box	Folder	
1	1	<i>Long Reach</i> (brig), correspondence, James B. Drake to John F. Harden, May – October 1869
	2	<i>Long Reach</i> (brig), correspondence, general, July 1869 – May 1871
	3	<i>Long Reach</i> (brig), customs certificates, May 1869 – August 1871
	4	<i>Long Reach</i> (brig), accounts and receipts, November 1869 – October 1871
	5	<i>Long Reach</i> (brig), charter parties, 1869 and undated
	6	<i>Long Reach</i> (brig), crew wages, July 1869 – August 1871
	7	Letters, Sarah J. Harden to John F. Harden, May 1, 1849 – September 28, 1851
	8	Letters, Sarah J. Harden to John F. Harden, October 20, 1851 – September 12, 1853
	9	Letters, Sarah J. Harden to John F. Harden, September 23, 1853 – April 26, 1857
	10	Letters, Sarah J. Harden to John F. Harden, May 7, 1858 – September 19, 1858
	11	Letters, Sarah J. Harden to John F. Harden, June 2, 1859 – October 17, 1869
	12	Letters, Sarah J. Harden to John F. Harden, October 24, 1869 – May 22, 1870
	13	Letters, Sarah J. Harden to John F. Harden, June 23, 1870 – May 14, 1871